

The Iowa Collector

Official Publication of the
Iowa Numismatic Association

*The Iowa Numismatic Association
Established in 1938*



In This Issue

Hunting the Elusive Token

By Bob Smith



**Spring & Summer 2015
Volume 56 Number 2**

<http://ina.anacclubs.org>



**IOWA
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION'S
77th Annual
COIN SHOW & CONVENTION**

October 24 -25 , 2015

Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Adventureland Inn

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Coins - Currency - Tokens - Stamps - Related Items

Tables full of Treasures

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For Information:

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The Iowa Collector

Official Publication Iowa Numismatic Association

Volume 56, Number 2

May 2015

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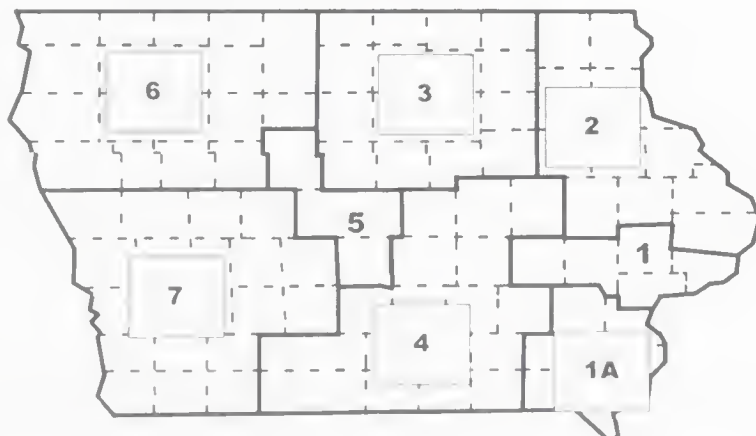
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Regional Districts



The Iowa Numismatic Association

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John Jackson

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(712) 274-9195 jjcoin1@hotmail.com



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.....615 Central Ave., Fort Dodge, IA 50501
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(319) 752-6052 linda.mitchell@mehsi.com
2. Lee Roe.....104 Fillmore Street, Cascade, IA 52033
(563) 852-3517 hilltopcoin@netins.net
3. Don Wells.....367 2nd Street S. W., Britt, IA 59423
(641) 843-4510 dwells86@mehsi.com
4. Denny Ross.....7079 189th St., Albia, IA 52531-8771
(641) 932-2731 den72ny@gmail.com
5. Sam Ashton..... 615 Central Ave., Fort Dodge, la 50501
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ADVERTISING MANAGER

Chris Seuntjens 3427 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 251-4031 chris@christophersjewelry.com

HISTORIAN

Brian Sparks1714 Paragon Avenue, Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(712) 210-6070 bsparks1@hotmail.com

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Open

EDITOR: THE IOWA COLLECTOR

Denny Ross 7079 189th St., Albia, IA 52531-8771
(641) 932-2731 den72ny@gmail.com

From the Editor

Would you like to see news of your club's activities covered in *The Iowa Collector*? The editor welcomes news of club happenings in the *Iowa Numismatic Associations* region. Send any information on your upcoming coin show, election of new officers and other club news and articles, prepared by club members, to the Editor. Include any photographs with your article, to make your story more interesting.

Send to: Editor, *The Iowa Collector*
7079 189th Street
Albia, IA 52531-8771

Presidents Message

John Jackson



Spring has finally arrived in Iowa and we are all starting to look forward to better weather and all those projects that come with the change of seasons. As I look back at the events of the past few months, I have enjoyed a very busy schedule of shows all over the Midwest and points from Florida to California. Most of the shows were wonderful events and opportunities to see old friends and make new ones. Unfortunately, we also said goodbye to some old friends that enjoyed this hobby with us. In thinking about the loss of friends and dealers and the march of time that leaves some in poor health, I had a few thoughts on what we should do with the items that we are merely caretakers of. Most of our collections are not ultra rare items for museums so how they are passed on will be left to those we leave behind. So, take time to think about what you will do with your collection. If you are going to pass it on to family, be sure and leave information on how to care for the items and an approximate valuation. If you are going to sell them, or have your family sell them, I suggest making a list of dealers or auction companies that you trust to do a proper job in disposing of your collection. Any information you leave with your family will be a great help in your absence. As for the current state of the hobby, things are improving as far as show attendance, but prices are still going down. I believe it will be a good year to add to your collection at these low levels. In the next few months, I hope everyone has a great summer and hope to see you in South Sioux City in June or Altoona in July or at some of the other shows I will be attending this summer.

John Jackson



From The Secretary's Desk

Beverly Ashton



Hello from Fort Dodge. We can be very grateful for the fairly mild winter this year. The East Coast really took the brunt of the major snowstorms this winter. I don't mind if they set a few records for snowfall. Better there than here I believe. A big thank-you goes out to Scott Nichols and the entire Ames Coin Club for the great Coin-A-Rama we had in February.

As I write this we are getting ready for the Fort Dodge Coin Club's show. So many things to accomplish, so little time. I am looking forward to seeing quite a few of you at the shows.

This year we vote on Outstanding Numismatist. We are still needing nominations for this so if you know of an individual whom you believe is deserving of this honor, please send a letter explaining why you believe they should be considered.

Thank you to everyone who responded so promptly to the dues notices. I am still struggling to get through them all. I could give you a big list of all the things that have been keeping me from getting this done, but let me just say that I have been greatly distracted with family obligations. I will get it done.

What are the markets doing? Right now gold spot is around \$1,180, with silver about \$16.70. See you at the shows.

Beverly Ashton
INA Secretary/Treasurer

INA Board and Membership Meeting Dates

The INA officers hold three board meetings each year and one open membership meeting. These meetings are held in conjunction with a coin show. The annual board meeting is held during the INA's Annual Coin Show & Convention which is hosted by a different Coin Club each year. The INA's officers board meeting is held the evening of the first day of the INA coin show and the open membership meeting is conducted on the morning of the second day of the INA coin show.

Regular INA Board meetings:

February 21, 2015 at Coin-a-Rama, Nevada, Iowa

July 12, 2015 at Central Iowa Coin & Stamp Expo, Altoona, Iowa

October 24, 2015 at Annual INA Show, Altoona, Iowa

October 25, 2015 Open membership meeting, Altoona, Iowa

President John Jackson called the meeting to order. The minutes were read, Denny Ross motioned they be accepted, Lee Roe seconded and they were approved. The Treasurer's report was given with a balance of \$8,091.13 in the general fund. Rusty Crawford motioned the report be accepted, Dean Parr seconded and it was approved.

Where will the INA show be in 2016? John will check into Sioux City hosting it then.

Outstanding Numismatist Award was discussed, we need nominations now. The 50 year pins all went out to the recipients.

Denny thanked the board for his computer. He is very happy with how it is working.

John thanked the Ames Coin Club for the great show.

There have been some problems with verifying dates for shows lately. Denny really needs to have a flyer to verify dates to be published in The Collector.

Brian Sparks, Historian, showed some original artwork donated to the INA by Dean Oakes. Don McCulloch motioned we have it professionally framed, Rusty seconded and the motion passed.

Don motioned we adjourn, Denny seconded and we adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Beverly Ashton
Secretary/Treasurer

Members present: Rusty Crawford, Denny Ross, Tom Flynn, John Jackson, Sam Ashton, Chris Seuntjens, Bev Ashton, Don McCulloch, Dean Parr, Dave Stark, Brian Sparks & Lee Roe



From The Editors Desk

Denny Ross



Here it is, spring is finally in full swing and the winter cold is a fading memory. Several coin shows have come and gone since the first of the year, and from the size of the attendance by the collectors it seems that the market is turning around.

The interest in collector materials is getting back to the levels before the big gold and silver market boom. With precious metals now stabilizing, collector interests are now back on filling those gaps in their albums.

On to other matters. It's an odd numbered year this year and that means you need to send in your nominations for the Outstanding Numismatist award. Full criteria for nominations are listed on page 40 of this issue of The Collector. Pick the person who you think has contributed the most to the INA and our fine hobby of coin and currency collecting. All nominations must be received by June 1st, so get them sent off as soon as possible. The 1st of June will sneak up on you faster than you realize.

A note to all coin clubs who put on coin shows through-out the year. You must get your show information to me, including location, date/s and any other information you want to share with the public 1 month before the release of the next issue of The Collector to the INA club members. Either email me a show flyer or stick it in the mail and send it to me in a timely fashion. The Iowa Collector will not be responsible for dates that don't get listed, either because I didn't get the information in time or didn't receive any information at all. The Iowa Collector will not be responsible for information on your show flyer. Deadline for posting in The Collector is listed on page 11 of each issue of The Iowa Collector.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Waterloo on April 26th and in Altoona on July 12th.

Denny Ross
Editor: The Iowa Collector

Starting Balance	INA Regular	ICFA Fund
	\$8,901.53	0.00
Receipts		
Medals		
INA Show (1/2)	50.00	
Dues	1,517.24	
Ads	720.00	
Interest	40.00	
	<u>1.58</u>	
	2,328.82	
Expenses		
Stamps	392.00	
Returned Collectors	8.19	
Ottumwa Printing Collector	801.62	
Dues notice mailing	157.02	
Postage 50 year pins & back collectors	33.79	
Editors computer	754.30	0.00
Printer ink & mailers	87.72	
Show & past Pres plaques	204.58	
INA program fee	200.00	0.00
INA show advertising	<u>500.00</u>	
	3,139.22	<u>0.00</u>
Current Balances	8,091.13	
Checking	5,714.57	
Savings	2,336.56	
Cash	<u>40.00</u>	
	8,091.13	

INA Bylaws

The Bylaws can be viewed on the INA website: <http://ina.anaclubs.org>
 A white copy, of the bylaws, can be obtained by contacting INA
 Secretary Beverly Ashton, 615 Central Avenue, Fort Dodge, IA 50501

SEMINAR SPEAKERS

- Tom Robertson (319) 351-2512 tdrobby@yahoo.com
Programs on - Seated Liberty series: 1/2 dime, dimes, quarters Half dollars & seated dollars..
- Dale Dye (319) 351-3006
Programs on - Shields nickels, Liberty nickels, Buffalo nickels.
- Brian Fanton (319) 294-4377
Programs on - Grading, Boy and Girl Scout merit badge programs Slabbing, The 'Art of coin collecting 'and general numismatic topics.
- Denny Ross.....(641) 932-2731 den72ny@gmail.com
Program on - Lincoln cents 1909 thru 1958.
- Dean Parr (319) 366-0552 drparr@mehsi.com
Programs on - Foreign coins & World paper money.
- Lee Roe(563) 852-3517 hilltopcoin@netins.net
Programs on - Buying and selling coin collections. Slabbing.
- Steve Feller.....(319) 393-7052 sfeller@coe.edu
Programs on - POW Scrip, WW II Concentration Camp money, Civil War money, The New Orleans mint, Ancient coins, and other topics.

SHOW COORDINATOR

John Jackson (712) 274-9195 jjcoin1@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Chris Seuntjens.....(515) 251-4031 chris@christophersjewelry.com

WEBMASTER

Dean Parr (319) 366-0552 drparr@mehsi.com

When and where Coin Clubs Meet

Ames ----- Last Wednesday, Senior Citizens Center, 7:00 PM Scott Nichols
(a) (515) 232-9222

Burlington ----- Fourth Tuesday, No meeting in Dec., Burlington Public
Library, 210 Court St., 5:30 PM, Roger Armstrong (a) (319) 850-7339

Cedar Rapids ----- Third Wednesday, 7:30 PM, Rockwell Main Plant
Cafeteria, 35th St. N. E., Bob Johnson (a) (319) 573-6652

Clarion - Fourth Thursday, Pizza Ranch on Main St, 7:00 PM, Boyd LaRue
(a) (515) 460-5681 or Bill Soesbe (a) (515) 532-2155

Decorah ----- First Tuesday, V. F. W. Building basement , 104 State St 7:30
PM, Dave Sanderson (a) (563) 568-2371

Dubuque ----- First Thursday, A&W-OKY DOKY, 1st & Locust St,
Upstairs at 7:00 PM Neil Aitchison (a) (563) 556-5254

Des Moines -- First Tuesday, St. Marks Episcopal Church, 3120 E 24th, 7:00
PM, Robert Simon (a) (515) 251-4031

Fort Dodge ----- Second Thursday, ICCC East Campus, 7:00 PM, Sam
Ashton (a) (515) 573-3033

Glenwood Coin Club - Second Thursday, Glenwood Coin Shop, 13 North
Vine Street, Suite 2, 7:00 PM, Tom Flynn (712) 527-4321

Grinnell ----- Second Monday, Community Center (Senior Citizens Room)
7:30 PM, George Fowler (a) (641) 236-3549

Hiawatha ----- Fourth Wednesday (except June & July), Hiawatha Library
150 W Willman St. (or the shop) 7:00 PM, Brian Fanton (a) (319) 294-4377

Keokuk ----- Third Thursday every month, Keokuk Public Library, 210
North 5th Street 7:00 PM, Tom Gardner (a) (319) 524-7366

Old Capitol (Iowa City) ----- Second Tuesday, Veteran's Administration
Hospital (Third floor cafeteria), Hwy 6, 7:00 PM Tom Robertson (a)
(319) 351-2512

Oskaloosa --- Second Thursday each month, 103 High Avenue, 7:30 PM
Clarence McKee (a) (641) 672-2763

Ottumwa - Fourth Tuesday, Albia Road Baptist Church, 1601 Albia Road (Basement), 7:00 PM, Kermit Uhde (641) 682-0525

Port City (Muscatine) - Fourth Tuesday (Dec meeting 3rd Tue), Musco Lighting, 2107 Stewart Rd., Muscatine 7 PM, Jim Burr (563) 262-9313

Quad City (Moline, IL) - Third Thursday, Garden Center, 5th Ave and 34th Street, 7:00 PM, Robert Hook (a) (309) 949-3707

Siouxland (Sioux City) - First Tuesday, First United Methodist Church, 1915 Nebraska Street, 7:00 PM, John Jackson (a) (712) 274-9195

Storm Lake - Second Tuesday, Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 119 West 6th Street, 7:00 PM, Russ Post (a) (712) 284-2110

Wadena - Third Thursday, Historical Center, West Union, IA, 7:30 PM Dr. James E. Ralls (a) (319) 283-4440

Waterloo/Cedar Falls - Second Tuesday, Waterloo Arts & Rec. Center, First & Commercial Streets, 7:00 PM, Dennis Bracken (a) (319) 231-8385

Dear I.N.A. Member

The 2015 year is here. We encourage you to support the I.N.A. with your ad in The Collector. The rates are:

Full Page	\$100.00	Half Page	\$60.00
	Quarter Page	\$30.00	

Ad rates for private shows will be prorated from the normal yearly advertising rates.

Full page ads for INA Coin Clubs are \$10.00. Non INA Coin Clubs are \$25.00.

There are 3 issues of our deluxe publication, with a 4th issue when needed. Anyone would be proud to have their ad in "The Collector". We try to get articles and information for the good of our members. We encourage everyone to write an article concerning numismatic information which might help other collectors, especially our new members.

Thank you for your sponsorship!

Chris Seuntjens
3427 Merle Hay Rd.,
Des Moines, IA 50310

The Iowa Collector is published 3 times a year
Publication dates:
January, May, & September

2015 Coin Show Calendar

June 5 - 6 NNA 59th Annual Coin Show - Marina Inn Conference Center 385 East 4th Street ,Sioux City, NE For Information: (712) 274-9195

June 21 Monthly Collector Show - Hilton Garden Inn, 2702 Mid America Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

July 12 Central Iowa Coin & Stamp Expo - Adventureland Inn, Altoona, IA (9 - 5) Chris Seuntjens or Terry Holdridge (515) 251-4031, (515) 964-1202

July 19 Monthly Collector Show - Hilton Garden Inn, 2702 Mid America Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Aug 22 - 23 Iowa Great Lakes Coin Show - Spirit Lake Community Center, North of Great Lakes Mall. (9-5), (9-3) Don McCulloch (712) 336-4618

Aug 16 Monthly Collector Show - Hilton Garden Inn, 2702 Mid America Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Sept 12 Clarion Fall Coin Show - Clarion High School, 111 Willow Drive, Clarion, IA (9-4) Boyd LaRue or Bill Soesbe (515) 532-2155

Sept 26 Ottumwa Coin & Stamp Show - Bridge View Center, 102 Church Street, Ottumwa, IA (9 - 4) Denny Ross (541) 932-2731

Sept 20 Monthly Collector Show - Hilton Garden Inn, 2702 Mid America Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Oct 18 Tri-State Coin Show - Diamond Joe's Casino, 302 Bell Street, Dubuque, IA (9-4) Richard Hillard (563) 557-7210

Oct 19 Monthly Collector Show - Hilton Garden Inn, 2702 Mid America Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Nov 15 Monthly Collector Show - Hilton Garden Inn, 2702 Mid America Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Dec 13 Old Capitol Coin Club Show - Clarion Hotel, I-80 & Hwy 1 (exit 246), Iowa City, IA (9-4) Alice Grimm (319) 331-8576

Dec 20 Monthly Collector Show - Hilton Garden Inn, 2702 Mid America Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407) 720-3355

Join the Iowa Numismatic Association

Membership

Any person interested in numismatics, over 18 years of age, of good moral character may become a member upon recommendation of the membership committee. Dues are \$10.00 per year.

Object

The object of this corporation shall be to;
Encourage and promote the science of numismatics.
Cultivate fraternal relationships among coin collectors and students.
Foster the interest of youth in the subject.
Encourage and assist new collectors.
Stimulate and advance affiliations between our associations and kindred organizations in the United States and foreign countries.
Acquire and disseminate numismatic knowledge.
Generally represent numismatic interests throughout the State of Iowa.

Junior members

Any person between the ages of 0 and 18 years old and sponsored by a senior member may be considered for junior membership. Junior members may not hold office, but may vote for elective offices. Dues to be \$2.00 per year.

Officers

Officers are elected every two years by membership vote, by mail ballot, and take office at the annual convention following election. Officers consist of 16 members, including the President, the First and Second Vice Presidents, the Secretary/Treasurer, the immediate Past-President, and 11 Directors.

The annual membership meeting is held each year at the Iowa Numismatic Associations Annual Convention held in the fall.

The Iowa Collector, the official bulletin, is published three times each year and sent to each member. The I.N.A., upon request, will help the heirs of any member in good standing find a qualified person or persons, in his area, to appraise an estate.

For further information about the I.N.A. contact any member, director or officer. An application has been enclosed with this issue of The Iowa Collector. To join fill it in and send it along with your check to:

Beverly Ashton
615 Central Avenue
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 573-3033

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

I hereby make application for membership in the "IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION", subject to the provisions of its Articles of Incorporation and By-laws.

Send this application together with \$10.00 for the current years dues
Young applicants dues are \$2.00 per year until the age eighteen.

Note: The I.N.A. year runs from January 1st to January 1st

Date _____

Applicants Name (please print)

Mailing address

E-mail address _____

Phone # _____

City

State

Zip Code

Date and Year of Birth

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Proposer

I.N.A. or A.N.A. Number

For use of Secretary/Treasurer

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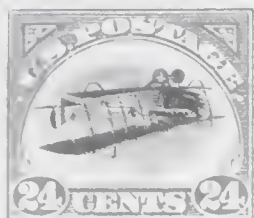
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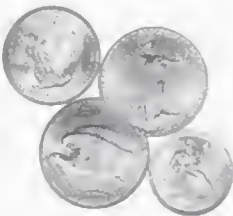
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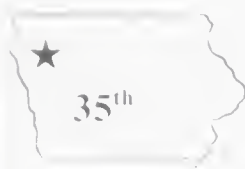
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Coralville, IA 52241**

Craig Keplinger

website: www.numiswiss.com

**Email: (email is best)
keplingercoins@mchsi.com**

Annual Iowa Great Lakes



COIN, CARD and

PAPER MONEY SHOW

SATURDAY-AUGUST 22 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SUNDAY -AUGUST 23 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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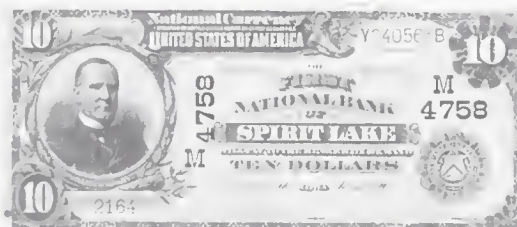
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In what year was the first half cent minted ?

A. 1796

C. 1800

B. 1793

D. 1795

Who was designer of the Draped Bust half cent?

A. John Reich

C. Christian Gobrecht

B. Unknown

D. Robert Scot

Answers to above inside back page

The purpose of the INA is to bring together those persons interested in the hobby of collecting coins. To encourage active participation in Numismatics. To encourage the principles of fair dealing. To study the history of the world through the art of coin, currency and exnumia. To provide a forum for Iowa numismatists to share their interests and knowledge with prospective new collectors.



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Gary Ihrke

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(507) 346-1717

girc@sgwb.coop

Kyzivat Currency

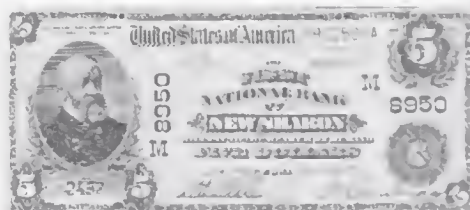
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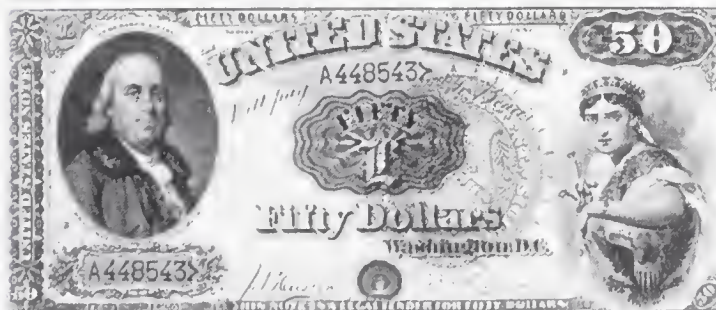
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Other days by appointment



Hunting the Elusive Token

Dedicated to the Memory of Travis Roberts

Part One

By Bob Smith

If you are new at collecting or a seasoned collector with years of experience, almost all of us have stories of a good token find. I have been collecting tokens since 1978, and through the years I have heard many interesting stories, and I have a few stories of my own as well.

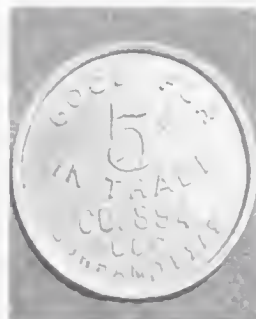
In 1978 I was a new collector and anxious to put my hunting skills to the test. I had been advised by Jerry Adams that the best places to look for tokens was either in antique stores, junk shops or flea markets. In Texas, the largest flea market is located in Canton, Texas, held on the weekend prior to the first Monday of every month. So I headed out making the two hour drive to Canton early one Saturday morning, hoping to find a good token, only if I could remember what a good token looked like.

After walking through a large portion of Canton, which covers several acres, and finding only three tokens, I headed back home. I was satisfied with the three tokens and anxious to find out what they might be worth. I was told that Weatherford, Texas also had a flea market on first Monday weekend, so I headed to Weatherford in the afternoon of the same day, which was only a thirty-minute

drive. After walking the first mile, I found a man that had an aluminum token from Fort Worth. I bought the token for \$5.00 and found out on Monday that it was a rare token from the Midway Bar, Fort Worth, Texas good for 12-1/2c, a case of "beginners luck" for sure.

A few weeks later, the Hunt Brothers of Dallas, Texas, inflated the price of silver and people all over were going through their coin collections and looking for silver coins. I placed an ad in the local paper that read, "While looking through your coins for silver money, if you find any tokens reading good for 5c in trade, good for one drink, etc., call Bob Smith..." Within a day after the ad came out I had several calls and found several good tokens, including a good Texas saloon token.

But the best call came from a man in Arlington, Texas, who was a diver. He used an under-water metal detector to recover lost items in lakes, lost by boaters, and to hunt for money dropped overboard. He had dove into Bonham Lake, in Bonham, Texas, and found a hoard of tokens from the CCC camp.



located near the lake in the 1930's. He did not consider the tokens of much value since he was mainly looking for silver money. There were two denominations of tokens: a 5c aluminum token and a 10c brass token, from camp number 894, and had a pine tree on the reverse. The tokens were found under a layer of moss at the bottom of the lake near the remnants of an old diving platform. When he showed me the tokens, they were spread out on a white towel, and I ended up buying them for about 55c a piece. This was another case of "beginners luck" and I really didn't know the significance of what I had found until making some good trades to the older collectors at the next Texas token meet.

The Texas token collectors met once in the winter and once in the spring, at John Ribbe's house in College Station, Texas. John and his wife hosted the meetings and there were generally 15 to 20 collectors that showed up for the meetings. John's wife always served us good German kolache pastries from a local bakery and her hospitality made us all feel like home. John Ribbe collected



mostly Texas White Elephant Saloon tokens and he had pretty much a complete collection of the ones known to exist. The advantage of attending the Texas token meetings was not only to obtain new tokens for my collection, but also the association with the older experienced collectors. It was a great experience for me as a new collector, I learned a lot from the other guys and heard some good stories of how they had found their tokens.

Leo Warren was one of our Texas token collectors who was notorious for finding tokens. He hunted the local flea markets, yard sales and coin shops in San Antonio, Texas where he lived, finding many good tokens and bringing them to the Texas token Meetings for sale. When Leo showed up for the meeting he would bring along three or four three-ring binders full of tokens. Leo also had found a coin dealer that had been saving tokens for years and sold tokens to Leo on a regular basis, some of those including sutler tokens. Most of Leo's better Texas saloon tokens sold for \$50.00 to \$60.00 back in the 1970's and 1980's. Leo was a retired school teacher who drove an old delivery van that he had converted to a home-made RV, with a bed in the back and even a small safe bolted to the floor. Leo traveled across Texas looking for tokens in his van, and parking at the Canton flea market for the weekend to search for tokens.

In the early 1980's, Leo Warren's name was given to construction workers tearing down an old building in San Antonio. The workers found several brass saloon tokens hidden in the wall of the old building, which may have been a saloon at one time. The hoard of tokens found being mavericks from San Antonio. The tokens were soon in the hands of the Texas collectors, including one or two in my collection.



Robert Fleet was another Texas collector that sought after Texas saloon tokens and especially Texas lumber tokens. Robert lived in Tyler, Texas and was a retired high school principal. Robert was always at First Monday in Canton, Texas, and everyone in Canton knew him as the "Token Man". Every time

that I hunted Canton (as well as other collectors), if we found someone with a good token, they usually were saving the token for Robert Fleet. Several times the person selling the token would show me the token but would not sell the token no matter how much I offered them.

Bill Fowler, who was the official cataloger of Texas tokens and co-author of "The Trade Tokens of Texas" was also very good at finding tokens from the local coin shops in Austin, Texas. Most of the coin dealers knew and respected Bill and saved tokens for him. Bill had an large Texas saloon token collection, including a hoard of Palace Saloon tokens (horse pictorial) from Austin, Texas. Bill's passion was not only cataloging the new Texas token finds but researching the history behind the token. I would send Bill a rubbing of a new token and he would spend a day researching the token and then write me a three page letter describing his results. Bill Fowler was a fine southern gentleman and a compendium of knowledge when it came to tokens.

One of the better token finds in Texas, was made by R.C. Williams, another Texas collector. While searching for tokens in Ruttersville, Texas, R.C. was told about an old building that had been torn down years before, leaving the rear concrete steps to the building still standing. He was told that the old building had been a saloon, and when the saloon closed, the owner had buried a jar full of tokens in the steps. R.C. contacted the current property owner and got permission to break up the steps. After the steps were broken, he did find a jar with 11 William Hancord, Brunswick Balke tokens from the old saloon, along with two other



tokens. One of the tokens was a maverick from the Iron Front (saloon), good for 12-1/2c.

Travis Roberts, another Texas token collector, was a contractor by profession and did a good bit of traveling between jobs. While going through small Texas towns, he would stop and ask the locals if they knew of any tokens. Travis also placed ads in some



of these small town newspapers, netting a few good ones. Travis really had a talent for finding tokens and once said that he could drive up to an old building and "smell the tokens" before he went inside. Travis made trips to Uvalde, Texas, meeting with the local sheep ranchers and talking them out of their sheep shearing tokens. At one of our Texas token meetings in the 1980's, Travis showed up with a beautiful rare Texas good for advertising mirror from a saloon in a small Texas town. It was not for sale or trade, only for show and bragging rights.

(to be continued)

Note from The Editor:

Thank you to "Talkin' Tokens" and Bob Smith for allowing The Iowa Collector to reprint this article.



How Much Would it Cost to Reassemble

Three Proof Sets?

By Mark Benvenuto

The three years 1936, 1957 and 1964 might at first not seem to have too much in common, either historically or in terms of numismatics. But there is a connection: they all mark one milestone or another in terms of proof coinage (okay "one milestone or another is a bit nebulous, but let's go with it please). The year 1936, still a tough one for most folks in the United States, as the Great Depression was only slowly easing up, gets marked today as the first year of modern proof coins. The year 1957 was certainly better for most folks who lived through both, and also was the first year in which more than a one million proof sets were produced. And 1964 was something of a troubled time, since President Kennedy's assassination was still a raw wound on the psyche of many - but it was also the first year in which Kennedy half dollars were minted, and were included in the proof sets. So, what sort of outlay is involved in reassembling the proof sets of these three years?

First, the 1936

It doesn't take the proverbial rocket scientist to determine that a 1936 proof set will be the most expensive to reassemble. It's the oldest, and was produced to the lowest total number. By the way, the reason we are thinking in terms of "reassembling" sets is that for many years, when proof coins were sold as sets, they were mailed to customers with very minimal packing. Many, if not all, were broken up. In the past 30 years, it's fair to say that most of the proofs at this time have been encapsulated by one of the third party grading services. So when it comes to grabbing a 1936 cent, nickel, dime, quarter, and half dollar, we will probably do so by purchasing five slabs and thus reassembling the set.

The year 1936 was noted for more than just the first of our modern proof sets. Nazi Germany hosted both the winter and summer Olympic Games, and closer to home Hoover Dam was finished. There were also more than 309 million Lincoln cents made, although only a few thousand are proofs. A brilliant finish as well as a satin finish proof was made that year, with the satin currently being the least expensive. In a grade such as PF-63 - a proof that has seen some rough handling in the past seven decades - this cent costs about \$150. If that seems expensive, brace yourself for what is to come. The proof Buffalo nickel will cost just over \$1,000 in that rather low proof grade, the Mercury dime will also ring in with that price tag, the Washington quarter rings in higher, at about \$1,250, and the big gun of this handful of proofs is about \$2,300. Yes, the Walking Liberty half of 1936, in PF-63 grade, starts out at that price, and climbs as the proof grade goes up.

All tallied, this proof set will now cost a determined collector about \$5,700 (and possibly more, depending on what coins one comes across). By almost all counts, that's a pretty expensive proof set. It's not impossible to own, but it will set most of us back quite a bit.

Next, the 1957

Spinning the time machine dials forward a couple of decades, we just mentioned that 1957 saw more than a million proofs minted. The exact number is 1,247,952 sets. That's an amazing jump from the few thousand of 1936.

The year 1957 had some notable achievements other than this large output of proof coins. The now famous Dr. Seuss book, *The Cat in the Hat* was published. President Eisenhower began his second term, and believe it or not, Frisbees made their debut. And for collectors like us, mercifully the large number of proofs made then translates into considerably lower prices today. To get us started, the proof Lincoln cent of 1957 costs no more than \$30 in a grade such as PF-67. A proof Jefferson nickel of the same grade costs only about \$3 (no kidding!), while the Roosevelt dime costs about \$30 - \$40. We might expect the big silver of the year, the Washington quarter and the Franklin half, to cost more. But the proof quarter really only costs about \$30- \$40 in proof 67, at least as this is being written. The proof Franklin comes in at about \$200, unless you'd like to shoot for a deep cameo proof, in which case the price does rise.

Once again we can tally up all of these, this time finding the entire proof set will cost about \$313, with most of that being the Franklin half dollar. Clearly, this is a much more affordable proof set.

Finally, the 1964

November 22, 1963 is the day that a generation of Americans will remember until they pass away, because it was the day our young President Kennedy was brutally assassinated in Dallas. It was quickly decided that he should be commemorated on a US coin, and the half dollar seemed appropriate. Indeed, unless a collector has been completely out of touch for the past few months, they know that the Kennedy half has been back in the spotlight lately with the release of the gold commemorative halves.

But looking just at the proofs of 1964, the same year that the Beatles became a phenomenon in the US, we see that the Lincoln cent costs \$10 - \$40, depending on whether you go for a PF-65 or PF-67 specimen, the Jefferson nickel once again costs only about \$3, the Roosevelt dime rings in at \$5 - 8, the Washington quarter will cost \$10 - \$30, and that fifty-cent piece honoring our fallen president will cost \$20 - \$50, unless you go gunning for a deep cameo specimen

Taken all together, a very good looking reassembled proof set from 1964 will run a person approximately \$130. By any stretch, that's a great price for five great coins.

Other?

There are certainly plenty of other proof sets a person might want to reassemble. We picked these three simply because each year has some numismatic connection - the first year of the proofs, the first year over 1 million, the first year with a Kennedy half. Look through some standard price guides for yourself and you may be pleasantly surprised at what other proofs are just waiting for a savvy collector to reassemble them into a set.

Coin Facts: The Draped Bust Half Cent

The Draped Bust design that first appeared on large cents in 1796 did not appear on half cents until 1800. Fortunately for collectors the inaugural year of the type (1800) is a reasonably common date. The 1802, the first overdate of any half cent, is the rarest date of the type and includes one variety with a new reverse (scarce) and another with the old reverse of 1800 (extremely scarce) . All other dates of this type are common, although, there are some interesting and valuable varieties to excite the collector. The 1804 'Spiked Chin' was caused when a foreign object was impressed into the obverse die, creating a spear-like projection from Liberty's chin. 1804 half cents are also found with a Plain 4 (no Crosslet) or Crosslet 4, and with or without stems on the reverse. 1805 and 1806 half cents are found in some combination of Small and Large final digits in the date and/or with or without stems. The 1808/7 is the other overdate of this type..As with most early date coins, high grade examples of Draped Bust half cents are hard to find, but several hoards and mini-hoards of 1800 and 1806 half cents have made the task easier. Full red Uncirculated examples are extremely rare and for most dates, simply don't exist.



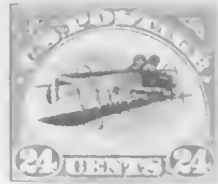
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History in Your Hands

By Joel Anderson

Coins are little pieces of history. They proclaim the triumphs and collapses of past nations and civilizations, yet, as historical objects come and go, they are relatively inexpensive. Coins of Ancient Rome can be had for less than \$10 (cheap, considering what a dinner out costs, and coins lasts a lot longer too!).

Circulating coins reflect the character of the nations that issued them. For example, the grandeur of classical Greek coins. Or the dreary coins of Nazi Germany or the USSR, which show little more than a denomination on one side and a national symbol on the other. Or the multi-lingual coins of Yugoslavia and Palestine, countries now torn apart due to civil wars.

Coins witness the birth and death of nations. Now is a fascinating time to collect coins and paper money due to the breakup of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, creating numerous new nations, and the potential unification of the economies of Western Europe and the creation of a common currency.

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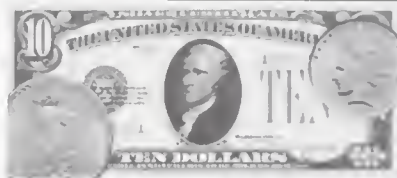
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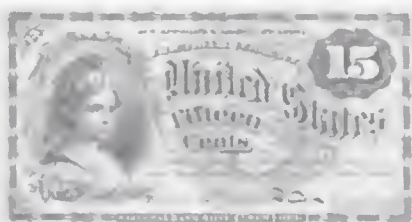
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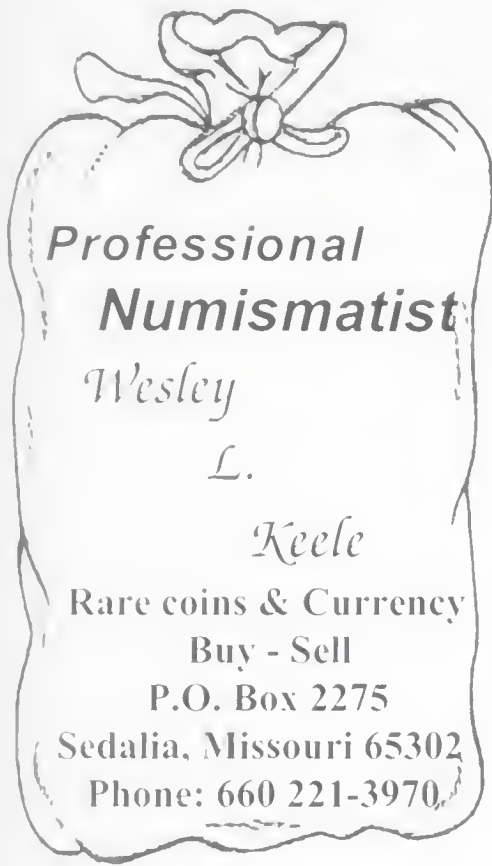
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